REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-37 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 14, and 26 are independent. In the Office Action dated October 4, 2004, the specification and Claims 8-11, 20, 22, 32, and 34 were objected to, Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and Claims 1-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Furthermore, Claim 1-37 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Following this response, Claims 1-37 remain pending in this application. Applicant hereby addresses the Examiner's objections and rejections in turn.

I.   Objection to the Specification

In the Office Action dated October 4, 2004, the Examiner objected to the specification due to missing status information of a co-pending application. The specification has been amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this objection and adds no new matter.

II.   Objection to the Claims

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 8-11, 20, 22, 32, and 34 as containing various informalities. Claims 8, 10, 20, 22, 32, and 34 have been amended to address these informalities and do not narrow the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments overcome this objection to Claims 8, 10, 20, 22, 32, and 34 and add no new matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection

with respect to Claim 9 because Claim 7, in contrast to the Examiner's position, recites

"an overflow status." Similarly, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection with

respect to Claim 11 because Claim 7, in contrast to the Examiner's position, recites "an

underflow status."

III. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly

claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 6 has

been amended, and Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment overcomes this

rejection and adds no new matter.

IV. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,995,991 ("*Huang*") in view of U.S. Patent

No. 5,065,352 ("*Nakano*"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Regarding Claim 1, the Examiner stated that *Huang* discloses an analyzer circuit

configured to determine a first status of a first floating point operand and a second

status of a second floating point operand based upon data within the first floating point

operand and data within the second floating point operand respectively. (*See* Office

Action, page 3, line 24 through page 4 line 3.) In contrast, Applicant asserts that *Huang*

does not support the Examiner's rejection. For example, *Huang* discloses registers

(116 and 118) having operand value storage portions (116-1 and 118-1) and tag value

storage portions (116-2 and 118-2). (*See* col. 6 line 68 through col. 7, line 2.) However, storing tag information is disclosed in *Huang* as being separate from the operand. Specifically, in *Huang*, the tag data is separate from the operand and stored in a tag storage portion. The status information is not encoded within floating point operands, rather tag data is stored in a tag value portion separate from the operand value storage portion. Thus, the operands in *Huang* do not have status information encoded within the operand. Furthermore, *Nakano* does not overcome *Huang's* deficiencies. *Nakano* merely discloses a divide apparatus employing multiplier overlapped partial quotients. Like *Huang*, *Nakano* does not support the Examiner's rejection.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant asserts that the rejection of Claim 1 is not supported by the cited art and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicant asserts that the rejections of Claims 14 and 26 are also not supported by the cited art and should be withdrawn for the reasons outlined above in response to the rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-13, 15-25, and 27-37 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claims 1, 14, and 26, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1, 14, and 26. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-13, 15-25, and 27-37.

V.   Rejection of the Claims Under the Doctrine of Double Patenting

In the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 1-37 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable

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over Claims 1-37 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/035,580 in view of

Nakano. The Examiner has stated that a timely filed Terminal Disclaimer in compliance

with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome this rejection. Applicant respectfully

requests that the Examiner hold this rejection in abeyance until allowable subject matter

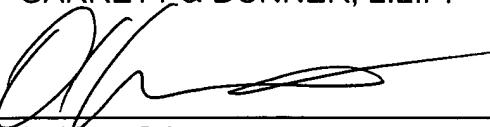has been indicated.

VI.   Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the

reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the

pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the

Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that

were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other

elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the

preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other

bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge

any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 16, 2004   By:_____
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